IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claim 37 in accordance with the following listing showing the status of all claims in the application.

19.    (Previously Presented) At least one computer-readable medium storing a computer language, said computer language comprising:

(a)    a plurality of defined document type descriptions, each document type description specifying a type of document within a common document structure that can be used;

(b)    a set of defined interactions, each interaction specifying any expected inbound document types and any resulting outbound document types;

(c)    a set of transformations for use in connection with the defined interactions, each transformation specifying how to convert one document type in the common document structure to another document type, also in the common document structure, together with instructions for applying said transformations to compensate for mismatches between documents actually received and expected inbound document types; and

(d)    a transition structure that maps all permissible flows for a given conversation by identifying interactions from the set of defined interactions and specifying transitions between the identified interactions,

wherein each of (a)-(d) is a separately defined component of said computer language.

20.    (Previously Presented) At least one computer-readable medium according to claim 19, wherein at least one of the specified interactions allows for any of a plurality of inbound document types, and wherein the transition structure specifies different transitions depending upon which document type is actually received.

21.    (Previously Presented) At least one computer-readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of defined document type descriptions comprise XML stylesheets.

22.    (Previously Presented) At least one computer-readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the defined document type descriptions, the defined interactions and the set of transformations are available for defining additional transition structures that specify interactions and transitions for other desired conversations.

23.    (Previously Presented) At least one computer-readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the computer language comprises a second transition structure, corresponding to a second conversation, that identifies a second group of interactions from the set of defined interactions and specifies transitions between the interactions in the second group.

24.    (Previously Presented) At least one computer-readable medium according to claim 23, wherein at least some of the interactions in the second group also specify any applicable transformations.

25. (Previously Presented) A conversation controller for controlling a conversation between a Web service and an external entity, comprising:

(a) a communications interface for exchanging documents with a Web service and an external entity;

(b) a plurality of defined document type descriptions, each document type description specifying a type of document within a common document structure that can be used;

(c) a set of defined interactions, each interaction specifying any expected inbound document types and any resulting outbound document types;

(d) a transition structure that maps all permissible flows for a given conversation by identifying interactions from the set of defined interactions and specifying transitions between the identified interactions;

(e) a set of transformations, each transformation specifying how to convert one document type in the common document structure to another document type, also in the common document structure;

(f) a control processor for exchanging documents with the Web service and with the external entity through the communications interface in accordance with the transition structure; and

(g) a transformation component that maps document types using the set of transformations to compensate for mismatches between documents actually received from the external entity and expected inbound document types, wherein each of (b)-(e) is a separately defined component of said conversation controller.

26.    (Previously Presented) A conversation controller according to claim 25, wherein at least some of the interactions also specify any applicable transformations.

27.    (Previously Presented) A conversation controller according to claim 25, wherein both the transition structure and a plurality of transition structures for other Web services are accessible through a central Web-based registry.

28.    (Previously Presented) A conversation controller according to claim 25, wherein the transition structure defines permissible conversation flows from the perspective of the Web service.

29.    (Previously Presented) A conversation controller according to claim 25, wherein at least one of the specified interactions allows for any of a plurality of inbound document types, and wherein the transition structure specifies different transitions depending upon which document type is actually received.

30.    (Previously Presented) A conversation controller according to claim 25, further comprising a second transition structure, corresponding to a second conversation, that identifies a second group of interactions from the set of defined interactions and specifies transitions between the interactions in the second group.

31.    (Previously Presented) A conversation controller according to claim 30, wherein at least some of the interactions in the second group also specify any applicable transformations.

32.     (Previously Presented) A conversation controller according to claim 25, wherein the plurality of defined document type descriptions comprise XML stylesheets.

33.     (Previously Presented) A conversation controller according to claim 25, wherein the defined document type descriptions, the defined interactions and the set of transformations are available for defining additional transition structures that specify interactions and transitions for other desired conversations.

34.     (Previously Presented) A conversation controller according to claim 25, wherein the control processor is located remotely from a processor executing the Web service.

35.     (Previously Presented) At least one computer-readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the common document structure comprises an extensible markup language (XML).

36.     (Previously Presented) A conversation controller according to claim 25, wherein the common document structure comprises an extensible markup language (XML).

37.     (New) At least one computer-readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the set of defined interactions models states of the given conversation, the transition structure defines flows between states for the given conversation, and each state is defined independently of how the given conversation was navigated to reach said state.